



## **TALBOT COUNTY SOLAR ARRAY COMMITTEE**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date of meeting:** Tuesday, July 26, 2016

**Location:** 215 Bay Street, Conf. Room 1, Easton, MD 21601

**Attendees:** Corey Buxton, Frank Cavanaugh, Ed Heikes, Ryk Lesser, Jeremy Rothwell, John Swaine, Mary Kay Verdery

**1. Meeting opened at 3:00 p.m.**

**2. Review of the minutes from July 14, 2016 and July 19, 2016.**

**3. Topics discussed.**

- a. Maps.** Mark Cohoon, GIS Manager, and Jeremy Rothwell, Planner 1, as follow up to discussions from the July 14<sup>th</sup> Solar Array Committee meeting, presented a map detailing the key solar-related characteristics in the County, to include distances from substation/transmissions lines, private substations, transmission lines, and restrictive/non-restrictive areas. Discussions included substation and connection to transmissions in Kent County, Somerset County and Talbot County, land size vs. capacity vs. on-site and off-site, building permits and concerns by the Public Service Commission as to mitigation.
- b. Fire Hazards.** There was discussion as to Counties requiring a shutdown of systems due to live voltage and the potential for fire if the systems short out.
- c. Fences.** There was discussion as to fences being required by the Middle Department Inspection Agency (MDIA) due to high voltages.
- d. Mitigation.** There was discussion regarding the Maryland Farm Bureau's concern regarding tree mitigation and the taking of additional farmland, mitigation as an incentive and financial incentives and impacts.

- e. **Conservation Easements.** There was discussion regarding conservation easements typically prohibiting utility scale arrays and that the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) had a formula for determining the percentage of use.
  - f. **Maryland Solar Data.** Jeremy Rothwell, Planner 1 for Talbot County distributed information regarding solar rankings per job and capacity for Maryland, surrounding states and DC.
  - g. **Screening and Setbacks.** Discussion followed as to the type of natural vegetative screening to be required; e.g., planting Eastern Red Cedars with Leland Cypress as they are native, inexpensive and hearty. Adequacy of screening vs. depth of vegetative screening. Setbacks requirements generally discussed.
  - h. **Bonding.** Discussion followed as to bonding and decommissioning.
4. **Meeting schedule: Tuesday, August 2, 2016 – 3-5 p.m. Thursday, August 4, 2016 - 5-7 p.m. and Thursday, August 11, 2016 – 5-7 p.m.**
5. **Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.**